

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 20394 171223Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8868

S E C R E T LONDON 20394

NODIS

CHEROKEE, FROM REINHARDT

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJECT: TALK WITH NKOMO

REF: -STATE 304768

1. I CALLED ON NKOMO EARLY TODAY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF REFTEL. BECAUSE OF LATE RECEIPT OF REFTEL I HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO TAKE UP THIS SUBJECT WHEN I SAW HIM YESTERDAY RE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND.
 2. NKOMO LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AS I OUTLINED PROBLEM, STRESSING LIMITATION USG WILLINGNESS TOLERATE BEING MADE SCAPEGOAT FOR ANY POLITICAL REASONS HE MAY HAVE.
 3. NKOMO RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT FROM PREVIOUS TALKS THAT SECRETARY UNDERSTOOD PRESSURES ON ZIMBABWE POLITICIANS AND NEED OCCASIONALLY "TO BE FLEXIBLE." SINCE HIS LAST TALK WITH SECRETARY, PRESSURES HAVE MOUNTED ON NKOMO BECAUSE OF HIS TENUOUS ASSOCIATION WITH MUGABE. NKOMO HAS DONE MUCH TO TONE DOWN MUGABE'S RHETORIC AND "TRIMMED MUCH" FROM JOINT STATEMENT
- SECRET

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ISSUED MOST RECENTLY IN GENEVA. STILL, HE MUST FROM TIME TO TIME YIELD TO PROPOSALS THAT IMPERIALISTS BE BLASTED. IN THE FUTURE WE SHOULD NOTICE CAREFULLY STATEMENTS WHICH HE MAKES AS AN INDIVIDUAL SPOKESMAN AND THOSE WHICH HE MUST JOIN "MILITANT COLLEAGUES" IN MAKING. HE IS CONVINCED THAT HE MUST CONTINUE TO

HOLD MUGABE AND HIS AFFILIATES IN AN ALLIANCE BECAUSE
WHOLE PROJECT IN WHICH WE ARE NOW ENGAGED IS DEPENDENT
ON A TWO-PART PATRIOTIC FRONT.

4. I REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTAND HIS PECULIAR PROBLEMS
BUT THAT CONTINUED DENUNCIATIONS OF USG FOR WHATEVER
REASON OBVIOUSLY COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS, NOT ONLY
WITH HIM BUT ALSO WITH ALL OTHERS WHOM WE ARE TRYING
TO PERSUADE IN PRESENT ENDEAVORS.

5. NKOMO WAS UNDERSTANDING, WARM, AND ALMOST APOLOGETIC
HE STOPPED SHORT OF MAKING A DIRECT PROMISE, BUT HE
GAVE ME EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE WILL AT LEAST
THINK TWICE BEFORE SIGNING HIS NAME TO FUTURE PUBLIC
STATEMENTS.

SPIERS

SECRET

NNN

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